Kollam (Quilon): The God's own City

Kollam – the most picturesque city that holds pristine beaches with golden sands, exquisite monuments and temples speaking volumes of a bygone era, breathtaking eco-spots like Thennimala and Paravur, splendid of the Ashtamudi lake attracting some of the rare breed of exotic birds, houseboats and the tempting taste of beach side bars. Perhaps no other destination can offer it all like Kollam. If Kerala in God’s Own Country, then Kollam or Quilon is God’s Own City, Kollam (Quilon) is famous for its cashew nut, coir, marine products and spices. Kollam is a coastal town in south Kerala with the Arabian Sea to its west and western ghats to its east and spreads on the banks of the beautiful Ashtamudi backwaters. A long shoreline with beaches, mustard, backwater stretches, the Paravur waterfalls, Anchuthengu hill station, Thonniam Eco-Tourism Centre and pilgrim centres like Matha Ananthapadmanabha Swamy, Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple and Onam stills and a rich cultural heritage make Kollam a must-see destination on the itinerary of tourists arriving to God’s Own Country. The port town of Kollam is also known as the southern gateway to Kerala’s backwaters.

The Quilon Beach Hotel Kollam

The first classified five-star luxury hotel in the Cashew City, The Quilon Beach Hotel, situated in the heart of Kollam city, showcases the ancient grandeur and splendour of the erstwhile Desinghaphu province. The much acclaimed eastern hospitality of this land, hailed by many ancient seafarers to colonise the region, stretches the Paravur waterfalls, Anchuthengu hill station, Thonniam Eco-Tourism Centre, Palavoor waterfalls, Anchuthengu hill station, Paravur, Kottiyoor Elephant Camp, Thiruvambadi Beaches, Vizhinjam and Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, and is easily accessible by road, rail, sea and backwaters from other important towns of Kerala.

Some of the facilities here include all 95 sea-facing suites with multi-cuisine restaurant, coffee shop, a rooftop pool, an infinity swimming pool, international spa and thalassotherapy centre, Health and Beauty salons. The hotel is designed after international standard amenities and services to both leisure and business travelers alike. The concept of MICE tourism is incorporated with a full size international convention centre that can accommodate up to 1,500 pax, one of the biggest beachside business facilities in India. The other seven conference halls of different capacities provide variety to confrerecing and make it a pleasant and peaceful location for conducting business meetings.

The hotel offers swimming arrangements to pilgrims visiting Matha Ananthapadmanabha Swamy, Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple, Onam stills and a rich cultural heritage make Kollam a must-see destination on the itinerary of tourists arriving to God’s Own Country. The port town of Kollam is also known as the southern gateway to Kerala’s backwaters.

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treatment rooms and will provide different treatments for body and beauty care. Spain has a team of eminent doctors providing ayurvedic solutions using herbal ingredients to ameliorate modern-day ailments caused by lifestyle intricacies. The treatment plan is customised to individual requirements and needs. One remarkable fact about these treatments is that they are directed towards fortifying the immunity system and therefore precluding the chance of disease. Most of the treatments such as mahavakai, panchkalyan, dhara, shirodhara, kati vashisht, abhyanga, and Shirodhara range from Euro 10 to 50 for one-time treatment, done for short term and long term of 14 to 28 days where the cost is between Euro 3000 to 2000. Udharvallanam is a treatment for hemiplegic paralysis, obesity and certain types of rheumatic ailments. There is a slimming programme for 28 days costing Euro 2000. Under the 10 day beauty care programme there is a package costing Euro 3000, for improving complexion, skin tone and body contour.

Destinations in and around Kollam

Ashtamudi Lake: Certainly the top most tourist attraction at Kollam is the placid Ashtamudi Lake. A water body extending into 8 branches and occupying a large area of Kollam. The natural beauty of Ashtamudi and the houseboats cruising along it attracts large number of international and domestic tourists.

Kollam Beach: A serene beach, sources of people visit the beach for relaxation and entertainment.

Thanangery: An erstwhile Portuguese Colony where the remnants of the old Portuguese Fort and a British built lighthouse and Backwater Canal can be visited.

Thirumullavaram Beach: A shallow water beach located in the north of Kollam town ideal for swimming and bathing in the sea.

Monsoon Island: An island formed at the confluence where the Kallada river empties itself into the Ashtamudi. The island is crisscrossed by a network of shallow canals. The famous Kollada Lakkadamam is conducted here annually.

Vadakkekara: A verdant country where the facility for elephant ride is available with a local tourist enterprise. The Pacifier curry is an added attraction.

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Amritanandamayi Ashram: World renowned Ashram of Amma Amritanandamayi Devi at Vellikkeri the birthplace of Amma, is only a few kilometres to the north of Kollam town. The Ashram can be easily both by road and island waterway.

Subhramala Lord Ayyappa Temple: Located deep inside tropical forest is one among the most popular temples of south India. Pilgrims from different parts of the country visit Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa Temple during festival season.

Idayappat: A large rock formation, it is believed that the epic hero Jatavas had fallen here when its one wing was severed by demon Ravana.

Kottukal Cave Temple: A rock-cut cave temple near Idayappat.

Paravoor: A verdant country where the facility for elephant ride is available with a local tourist enterprise. The Pacifier curry is an added attraction.

Venkatesh: A serene beautiful destination and pilgrimage centre, Venkatesh is only a 10 km from Kollam.

As the seaside destination offers more privacy to solo seekers, Venkatesh has over the years emerged as an alternative destination to Kovalam and attracts repeat tourist in large numbers.

The calm and secluded Papanasam beach, loved by many tourists, has a red laterite cliff running along its entire stretch. The red cliff top offers tourists a spectacular view of the sunset. The adjacent Thiruvananthapuram Beach (Shank sand beach) is a favourite of those looking for solitude. The Kappil beach, 8 km north of Varkala, is the confluence of the sea, a river and a backwater. The Prayadhakshina Boat Club of the Prayadhakshina Promenade Council offers boating facilities at Kappil.